Alex Touzov

U.S. History

Ms. Stewart

September 6, 2012

Dear Bridget,

If you are reading this, I would like to let you know that I have arrived safely to America and am now living in New York. The voyage over the ocean was not an easy one, our ship was very crowded and many of the people I knew died on the voyage. However, those that were fortunate enough to survive are now sticking together as we try to rebuild our community in America. Even though the majority of us stick to life in the city, we still manage to find work, for the need for labor is great in this new country. Many of the men I was fortunate enough to meet are now working in lumber and construction. I even received news that the great Erie Canal was constructed on the backs of Irishmen like us.

I only hope to someday bring the rest of you over to this great country. Here, there is no crop failure and opportunities are endless. Although some days may be hard living in this large city, those of us that have made it manage to pull through and work together to get whatever pay is offered to us. Life, of course, is not without its troubles, many of us are mistreated for our religion while other groups complain that our presence is preventing them from getting jobs. In some cases, I have seen signs being posted with the word NINA posted on them. They tell me that these are posted over shops that will not allow our kind to work there.

Despite the difficulties, I still have great faith that this country will be the future of our family and our children. I am determined that with its promises and opportunities we will find a new life here, away from the troubles and famine of Ireland. In fact, a friend of mine recently found great work at a mill town in the area of Holyoke, Massachusetts and suggested I look for work there. He says that the town is filled with many Irish folk, some of which still have their tags from their arrival at Ellis Island. From what I hear, the pay is fair and there is plenty of work to be done. This opportunity would also allow me to get out of the city where many of us are stereotyped as alcoholics and treated like peasants by the local Americans. I have even heard stories of riots breaking out between our kind and the Americans over simple things such as construction job opportunities. With so many different lines of work in this country, I don’t see how this could possibly be a problem for these people.

I have learned much from this great country over my short time being here. The environment may be strange and in some instances hostile to our kind, but this has allowed our kind to form a strong community and watch out for each other in this new world. Although this country is not without its hardships, I truly believe this land to be our future. With plentiful food and endless opportunities, I would strongly recommend leaving Ireland to live in America for its promises and freedom.

I love and miss you,

Alex Touzov

[](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7b/Irish_immigrants_1909.jpg)

Image:

" File:Irish immigrants 1909.jpg" *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, 29 Aug 2012. Web. 20 Feb 2011. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Irish_immigrants_1909.jpg>>.

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